

Rapidity in granting clearance to SEZ proposals

726. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item appearing in the Financial Express dated the 4th November, 2006, captioned "Reports of more than 150 SEZ proposals referred by Board of Approvals";

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the rapidity in clearance all the SEZ approvals;

(c) whether it is a fact that the SEZ Board has ignored numerous infirmities and false statistics in most of the applications;

(d) if so, what steps would be taken to review all the clearances given by the SEZ Board;

(e) whether it is a fact that no public hearings were held before giving such clearances; and

(f) if so, the reasons for ignoring the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The applications received for setting up of Special Economic Zones were processed and cleared by the Board of Approvals as per the provisions laid down in the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006.

(e) The SEZ Act, 2005 and the SEZ Rules, 2006 do not provide for holding a public hearing before giving clearances for setting up SEZs.

(f) Does not arise.

Salt Pans in Mumbai

727. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of salt pans in Mumbai and who are their owners;